

What is a “public charge?”

An immigrant who uses certain kinds of benefits from the government might be considered a “public charge” by the government. This can affect your immigration status. Just using government programs does not make you a public charge.

Which programs might put someone at risk of being considered a “public charge”?

The only programs that the government can currently ask about are:

- Cash assistance (like TANF or SSI)
- SNAP (food stamps)
- Federal Medicaid (NOT New York State Medicaid, the Essential Plan, Emergency Medicaid, H+H Options, NYC Care, Child Health Plus, or Medicaid for pregnant women and children)
- Section 8 and public housing

Being enrolled in these programs does **NOT** necessarily mean you will be considered a public charge, but they are some of the things the government looks at.

MOST government benefits are not included on this list. If your children are US Citizens you can apply for them to use these programs without putting yourself at risk.

Immigrants with some statuses can apply for a green card or visa **WITHOUT** being considered a “public charge.” These include:

- Refugees and asylees
- Victims of serious crimes (like U visa holders)
- VAWA self-petitioners (for people who are victims of violence committed by family members)
- Special immigrant juveniles (SIJS)
- Some other immigrants

Call the **New Americans Hotline** at **1-800-566-7636** for suggestions about where to get legal advice. Remember, public charge still doesn't apply to many people, and most government programs aren't included in the rules.

When does the government decide if someone is a “public charge”?

It happens when you are applying for a green card. When you apply for citizenship the government does **NOT** check if you are a “public charge.”

What should I do?

You don't need to cancel your benefits if you are not at risk of being considered a “public charge.” Even if you are, it is important to think about your and your family's needs as well as immigration concerns. If you have questions about “public charge” related to an existing or future immigration application, you should consult an immigration legal expert. Call the **New Americans Hotline** at **1-800-566-7636** for suggestions about where to get legal advice. The hotline is free and anonymous, and help is available in many languages.



Ki sa yon "chay pou leta" ye?

Yon moun ki jwenn èd nan leta ka vinn yon "chay pou leta". Sa ka afekte estati imigrasyon ou. Menmsi ou itilize pwogram leta sa pa fè ou vini yon chay pou leta.

Ki pwogram ki ta ka fè yo di ke'w se yon "chay pou leta"?

Pou kounye a, sèl pwogram gouvènman an konsidere se:

- Lè w jwenn lajan kach nan men leta (tankou TANF oswa SSI)
- SNAP (koupon manje)
- Federal Medicaid (ki PA Medicaid Eta New York, the Essential Plan, Emergency Medicaid, H+H Options, NYC Care, Child Health Plus, oswa Medicaid pou fanm ansent ak timoun)
- Seksyon 8 ak lojman piblik

Menmsi ou enskri nan pwogram sa yo, sa **PA** vle di ou pral otomatikman pase kòm yon chay pou leta. Men, sa yo se kèk nan bagay gouvènman an pral tcheke.

PIFÒ benefis gouvènman an pa enkli ladan'l. Si pitit ou se sitwayen ameriken, ou ka aplike pou yo itilize pwogram sa yo san ou pa mete tèt ou an danje.

Moun ki gen rezidans espesyal ka mande rezidans pèmanan **SAN** yo pa konsidere yo kòm yon "chay pou leta." Men lis yo:

- Refijye ak moun ki gen azil politik
- Viktim krim grav (tankou moun ki gen viza T osnon U)
- Fanm ki aplike pou tèt yo anba VAWA
- (paske pwòp manm fanmi yo bat yo osnon toupizi yo)
- Timoun ki genyen viza espesyal (SIJS)
- Gen kèk lòt imigran ankò

Dènyèman gouvènman an te eseye chanje règleman li itilize pou decide si yon moun se yon "chay pou leta." Tribinal bloke chanjman sa yo. Pou kounye a, ANYEN PA CHANJE. Zafè "chay pou leta" pap aplike pou anpil moun. Epi règleman yo pa afekte anpil pwogram èd gouvènman an bay.

Kilè gouvènman an decide si yon moun se yon "chaj piblik"?

Sa rive sèlman lè w ap aplike pou yon kat vèt oswa kèk viza espesyal. Lè ou aplike pou sitwayennte gouvènman an **PA** tcheke si ou se yon "chaj piblik."

Ki sa mwen ta dwe fè?

Ou pa bezwen anile benefis ou si pa gen danje ke yo konsidere'w kòm yon "chay pou leta." Menm si gen danje, li enpòtan pou balanse pwogram oumenm ak fanmi'w bezwen anmenm tan ke kesyon sou imigrasyon. Si ou gen kesyon sou "chay pou leta" ki gen rapò ak yon aplikasyon imigrasyon ki deja egziste oswa ke'w ta vle fè, ou ta dwe pale ak yon avoka imigrasyon. Rele nimewo ki la pou sa : **"New American Hotline" nan 1-800-566-7636** pou sijesyon sou ki kote ou ka resevwa konsèy legal. Liy dirèk la gratis epi anonim, epi èd la disponib nan plizyè lang.

